

**Mansfield Board of Education Meeting
January 20, 2011
Minutes**

Attendees: Mark LaPlaca, Chair, Shamim Patwa, Vice-Chair, Martha Kelly, Secretary, Holly Matthews, Min Lin, Katherine Paulhus, Randy Walikonis, Superintendent Fred Baruzzi, Board Clerk, Celeste Griffin

Absent: Carrie Silver-Bernstein,

The meeting was called to order at 7:36pm by Mr. LaPlaca.

Mr. LaPlaca asked for a moment of silence to remember those killed, those severely wounded, and those families trying to cope with the tragic shootings in Arizona and in memory of Timothy Quinn, former Board Chair.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: Goodwin School student, Ethan Stone, discussed his progress in mathematics enrichment programs.

Ms. Silver-Bernstein arrived at 7:40pm.

COMMUNICATIONS: None

ADDITIONS TO THE PRESENT AGENDA: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Goodwin Bequest Fund Committee: MOTION by Mrs. Kelly, seconded by Ms. Silver-Bernstein, to approve changing the model of the Goodwin Bequest funding projects and the amount funded to up to \$1000 per project. VOTE: Unanimous in favor. Policy Committee: MOTION by Ms. Patwa, seconded by Mrs. Paulhus to adopt three policies: *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Fiscal Compliance*, *Individual with Disabilities Education Act – Alternative Assessments for Students with Disabilities for Statewide and District-wide Assessments*, and *Family and Medical Leave*. VOTE: Unanimous in favor. School Building Committee: Mr. LaPlaca updated the Board on the progress of the committee.

Goodwin School PTO: Diane Briody, President, discussed the fund raising efforts the PTO participates in to raise money to support Goodwin. She was joined by Laura Scruggs, Vice-President and Todd Jeffers, Secretary.

NSBA “*Ten New Year’s Resolutions for School Board Members*”. Mr. LaPlaca reviewed article from National School Boards Association.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

- 2011-2012 School Calendar – Mr. Baruzzi presented the Board with a draft calendar for review and discussion.
- Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding (CCJEF) – Mr. Baruzzi reported on the CCJEF v. Rell lawsuit that challenges the state to enforce fundamental right to adequate educational opportunities in Connecticut’s public schools. Mansfield is part of this lawsuit.
- Futures Education: Clinical and Educational Services Analysis for the Mansfield Public Schools- Mr. Baruzzi shared the report with the Board. Details will be discussed during the Special Education Budget discussion on February 3, 2011.
- Enrollment/Class Size: The principals noted no significant changes this month.
- 2011-2012 Proposed Budget – Introduction and Overview: Mr. Baruzzi provided an overview of the 2011-2012 proposed budget of \$20,572,170 which represents a decrease of .08% from the adopted 2010-2011 budget.

NEW BUSINESS: None

CONSENT AGENDA: MOTION by Mr. Walikonis, seconded Ms Patwa that the following item for the Board of Education meeting of January 20, 2011 be approved or received for the record: Ms. Patwa expressed gratitude and appreciation to the retirees for their contributions to the district. VOTE: Unanimous in favor

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the minutes of the December 9, 2010 Board meetings.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education accepts the retirement of Judy Baxter, 5th grade teacher at Mansfield Middle School and Mary Rameaka, preschool teacher at Vinton School effective the end of the 2010-2011 school year.

That the Mansfield Public Schools Board of Education approves the employment of Karen Herrick, Special Education teacher at Vinton School, Jennifer Meizels, 6th grade teacher at Mansfield Middle School, and Eileen Melody, Guidance Counselor at Mansfield Middle School.

HEARING FOR VISITORS: None

SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA: Ms. Patwa requested to discuss the district's policies and practices to support healthy options and physical activity for all students.

MOTION by Mrs. Paulhus, seconded Ms. Lin, to move to Executive Session at 9:50pm. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

Executive Session: Discussion regarding strategy with respect to pending complaint/litigation; complaint filed with Office of Civil Rights, No. 01-10-1269

MOTION by Ms. Paulhus, seconded Mr. Walikonis, adjourn at 10:06pm. VOTE: Unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Celeste N. Griffin, Board Clerk